



# Senior Corps

*Senior Corps is a network of programs that tap the experience, skills, and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges. Through its three programs – Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) – more than half a million Americans age 55 and over assist local nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations in carrying out their missions. Senior Corps, part of the USA Freedom Corps, is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that also oversees AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. Together these programs engage more than 2 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year.*

## **RSVP**

RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), one of the largest volunteer efforts in the nation, engages people 55 and over in a diverse range of volunteer activities. Volunteers organize neighborhood watch programs, tutor children, renovate homes, teach English to immigrants, assist victims of natural disasters, and serve their communities in myriad other ways. In fiscal year 2001, approximately 480,000 volunteers served an average of four hours a week at an estimated 65,000 local organizations through 766 RSVP projects. Volunteers may receive reimbursement for meals and transportation.

## **Foster Grandparents**

The Foster Grandparent Program provides a way for those 60 and over whose incomes are limited to serve as extended family members to children and youth with exceptional needs. Foster Grandparents serve 20 hours a week in schools, hospitals, correctional institutions, day-care facilities, and Head Start centers. They help children who have been abused or neglected, mentor troubled teenagers and young mothers, and care for premature infants or children with physical disabilities. In fiscal year 2001, more than

30,000 Foster Grandparents tended to the needs of 275,000 young children and teenagers. Foster Grandparents receive \$2.65 an hour for their service.

## **Senior Companions**

The Senior Companion Program provides a way for those 60 and over, whose incomes are limited, to provide assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks, such as grocery shopping and bill paying. Senior Companions spend 20 hours a week helping an average of two to four adult clients live independently in their own homes. Senior Companions receive monthly training, provide relief to caregivers, and alert doctors and family members to potential problems. In fiscal year 2001, some 15,500 Senior Companions tended to the needs of more than 61,000 adults. Senior Companions receive \$2.65 an hour for their service.

## **More Information**

To learn more about Senior Corps, opportunities to participate, and ways to support the programs, contact the Senior Corps at 800-424-8867 or TTY 800-833-3722 or [www.seniorcorps.org](http://www.seniorcorps.org).

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